

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01  
TRSE-00 HEW-04 /067 W  
-----081231 151925Z /64

O R 151838Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3313  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 19199

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, FR  
SUBJECT: GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE -- INTERNAL  
ASPECTS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT GISCARD HELD HIS SIXTH PRESS  
CONFERENCE JUNE 14 (THE FIRST IN OVER A YEAR).  
BASING HIS COMMENTS ON THE VARIOUS QUESTIONS, GISCARD  
TALKED FOR TWO HOURS DURING WHICH HE JUSTIFIED BARRE'S  
ECONOMIC POLICIES, ANNOUNCED SOME SPECIFIC REFORM  
MEASURES, AND OUTLINED HIS GOALS FOR FRANCE. THE MOST  
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NOTABLE ASPECT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS GISCARD'S  
SELF-CONFIDENCE AND CONTINUITY IN HIS APPROACH AND  
POLICIES. HE HAS SET HIS GOALS AND APPARENTLY KNOWS  
HOW HE PLANS TO ATTAIN THEM -- GIVEN TEN MORE YEARS  
INCLUDING A SECOND TERM. END SUMMARY

1. PERSEVERANCE: IF THERE IS ONE KEY WORD IN GISCARD'S

COMMENTS, IT WAS PERSEVERANCE (A) IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO RESTRUCTURE THE ECONOMY, (B) IN GISCARD'S EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A "REASONABLE COHABITATION" WITH THE OPPOSITION, (C) IN THE MEASURED, GRADUAL GISCARDIAN APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF REDUCING SOCIAL INEQUITIES. GISCARD HAS CHOSEN THE PERVASIVE OVER THE FLASHY. WHILE THERE WERE NO REALLY NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED (DETAILS ON CERTAIN PROPOSALS WERE PROVIDED, BUT NOTHING STARTLINGLY NEW WAS ANNOUNCED), THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS DISCUSSED COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT OVER THE TEN YEAR TIME FRAME CITED BY THE PRESIDENT (AN IMPLIED SECOND TERM FOR GISCARD). THE BIG QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER OR NOT THE COUNTRY AND ITS PROBLEMS CAN WAIT TEN YEARS FOR HIS APPROACH TO BE CARRIED OUT.

2. REASONABLE COHABITATION: ASKED HIS EVALUATION OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION WHICH TOOK PLACE JUST AFTER THE ELECTIONS, GISCARD STATED THAT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND POLITICIANS OF BOTH SIDES WERE PERFECTLY NORMAL, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE MORE OF THEM. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS (COVERED IN SEPTTEL), GISCARD CITED DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS TWO AREAS PARTICULARLY WHERE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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OPPOSITION WOULD BE USEFUL. IN THE LATTER AREA, HE MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE BONN SUMMIT. ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, GISCARD DESCRIBED THREE PROBLEM AREAS WHERE HE OR BARRE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE OPPOSITION IN DEVELOPING LEGISLATION.

-- ACCUMULATION OF ELECTED OFFICES: IN ORDER TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF OFFICIALS HOLDING SEVERAL ELECTED OFFICES AT THE SAME TIME SHOULD BE CORRECTED. LEGISLATION WOULD BE DEVELOPED, LIMITING TO TWO THE NUMBER OF ELECTED OFFICES WHICH COULD BE HELD BASED ON NATIONAL OR REGIONAL ELECTIONS.

- --FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES: LEGISLATION TO BOTH IMPROVE AND CONTROL THE FINANCING PARTIES WOULD BE DEVELOPED. NOT ONLY WOULD THIS RESULT IN GOF ASSISTANCE TO PARTIES IMPROVING THEIR CAPABILITIES, BUT IT WOULD SERVE TO REMOVE MUCH OF THE MYSTERY AS TO SOURCES OF FUNDS.

--PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION: IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

IN CITIES OF MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND THE GOF DESIRES  
TO INSTITUTE A SYSTEM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION  
WHICH WOULD EXPAND PARTICIPATION BY POLITICAL PARTIES  
ACROSS THE SPECTFUM AND ELIMINATE THE PRESENT WINNER-  
TAKE-ALL SYSTEM WHICH HAS SO BADLY DIVIDED MUNICIPAL  
POLITICS.

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ICAE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01  
TRSE-00 HEW-04 /067 W  
-----081185 151926Z /64

O R 151838Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3314  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
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3. RIGHT OF RESPONSE: IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS  
WITH THE OPPOSITION ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, GISCARD  
STATED HIS INTENT TO INTRODUCE A SYSTEM UNDER WHICH,  
WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER OR A MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT  
USES THE MASS MEDIA TO EXPRESS GOF POLICY, THE

OPPOSITION WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO AVAIL ITSELF OF  
THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME, AT THE SAME HOUR,  
BY THE SAME MEANS (RADIO STATION, TV CHANNEL) WITHIN  
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A PERIOD OF 48 HOURS -- PROVIDED THAT THE SUBJECT IS  
NOT UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE PARLIAMENT. THIS  
TIME WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN SPOKESMEN OF THE  
OPPOSITION PARTIES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AT  
LEAST THIS PROPOSAL BY GISCARD RECEIVED CONDITIONAL  
APPROVAL IN THE COMMUNIST PRESS. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER  
QUESTION BY A COMMUNIST JOURNALIST ALSO CONCERNING  
MEDIA ACCESS GISCARD STATED THAT HE WAS ALREADY  
LOOKING INTO WHY THERE WERE NO COMMUNISTS ON THE  
EDITORIAL STAFFS OF TV STATIONS. BEING COMMUNIST,  
HE SAID WAS NO REASON FOR EXCLUSION.

4. ECONOMIC POLICY: MORE OF THE SAME WITH SWEETENERS.  
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A QUESTION CONCERNING BARRE'S  
ECONOMIC POLICY, GISCARD REITERATED HIS COMPLETE  
SUPPORT FOR BARRE AND STATED HIS LONG RANGE OBJECTIVE  
OF PROVIDING FULL EMPLOYMENT. TO ATTAIN THIS, THE  
GOF INTENDS TO MAINTAIN A RATE OF GROWTH FROM ONE  
HALF TO ONE PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE PRESENT RATE.  
AS SWEETENERS, GISCARD NOTED THAT THE MINIMUM WAGE  
WAS BEING REGULARLY INCREASED AND THAT MINIMUM  
RETIREMENT WOULD INCREASE TO 12,000 FF PER  
YEAR AS OF 1 JULY. SPECIAL MEASURES WERE ALSO BEING  
PLANNED TO INCREASE BENEFITS TO WIDOWS WITH CHILDREN  
AND TO LARGE FAMILIES. THE GOF WILL INSURE THAT  
PURCHASING POWER OF THE LOW WAGE EARNERS IS MAINTAINED.  
ASKED ABOUT OTHER INCREASED BENEFITS (REDUCTION OF  
MINIMUM WORKWEEK, RETIREMENT AGE, ETC), GISCARD  
STATED THE GOF'S POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE CONTRACTUAL  
LABOR RELATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND UNIONS AND IT  
WOULD AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. A MAJOR  
GOF INITIATIVE IN INCREASING BENEFITS TO WORKERS WILL  
BE A PROPOSAL TO DISTRIBUTE UP TO 5 PER CENT OF THE  
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STOCK OF MAJOR INDUSTRIES TO ITS EMPLOYEES -- FREE OF  
CHARGES AND TAXES, AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING BOTH A  
SENSE OF OWNERSHIP AND INCREASED USE OF STOCKS AS  
A MEANS OF SAVINGS.

5. COMMENT: WHATEVER GISCARD'S MISTAKES OR

HESITATIONS IN THE EARLY PART OF HIS TERM, HE  
APPEARED SURE OF HIMSELF, OF WHAT HE WANTS AND OF  
HOW HE INTENDS TO GO ABOUT OBTAINING IT. GISCARD  
HAS DEFINED THE GOALS, AND BARRE IS EXPECTED TO  
EXECUTE THE POLICIES REQUIRED. HIS APPROACH MAY BE  
SOMEWHAT LESS THAN SPECTACULAR, BUT IT IS DESIGNED  
TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS DESIRED WITH A MINIMUM OF  
OPPOSITION. THE PRESS CONFERENCE PROVIDED AN  
OPPORTUNITY FOR GISCARD TO COMMENT ON A VARIETY OF  
ISSUES UNDER ACTIVE DEBATE AND HIS MESSAGE WAS CLEAR.  
HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CARRY OUT THE POLICIES THAT  
HE CONSIDERED BEST FOR FRANCE REGARDLESS OF THE FACT  
THAT THE LEFT NEARLY WON THE MARCH ELECTIONS IN  
OPPOSITION TO THESE SAME POLICIES. GISCARD WILL

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TRSE-00 HEW-04 /067 W  
-----081108 151927Z /64

O R 151838Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3315  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
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NEVERTHELESS ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A WORKING  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OPPOSITION AND ENCOURAGE  
THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION MAKING  
PROCESS. THIS WILL BE FEASIBLE IN SPITE OF RPR'S  
SUSPICIONS BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT INEFFECTIVE STATE  
OF THE LEFT OPPOSITION AND OF CHIRAC'S RELUCTANCE TO  
TAKE THE PRESIDENT HEAD-ON AT THIS TIME. WHILE  
CHIRAC AND THE RPR LEADERSHIP WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE  
OF THEIR LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICAL SNIPING,  
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GISCARD STILL MANAGES TO DIALOGUE EVEN WITH  
HIS PARTNERS (AS RPR ASSEMBLY LEADER CLAUDE LABBE  
RECENTLY COMMENTED) IN A WAY THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE  
UNDER POMPIDOU. GISCARD'S PROPOSALS, WHILE THEY  
MAY BE ALTERED OR WATERED DOWN BY GAULLISTS,  
STILL REPRESENT A STEP BY STEP PROGRESS TOWARDS HIS  
GOALS. GISCARD WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO SOCIAL  
NEEDS AS TIME AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT  
BUT HIS PROPOSALS AND GOALS ALSO REFLECT A LONG HAUL  
APPROACH -- 10 YEARS INCLUDING A SECOND TERM AS  
PRESIDENT. AND NOBODY KNOWS TODAY IF ECONOMIC AND  
POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ALLOW HIM THOSE TEN YEARS.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**From:** PARIS  
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**Message ID:** e2906088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2339191  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE -- INTERNAL ASPECTS SUMMARY: PRESIDENT GISCARD HELD HIS SIXTH PRESS  
**TAGS:** PINT, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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